A

TRYAL

BETWEEN

Patrick and *Roger*,

WITH A

FRAGMENT

OF THE

History of *Patrick*.

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WHILE the ſeuds among the great, about things which concern only themſelves and their dependants, engage the attention of all who are intereſted or who have nothing elſe to think of; I cannot hope to turn the thoughts of ſuch men, from an object ſo worthy of their time and talents, to the affairs of a private family, in which they have long ſince diſcloſed, how little they are concerned, however intereſting they may appear to others.

The family, I mean, is that of which a renown'd *Hibernian* bard, in former times wrote a compendious hiſtory, a ſmall part of which he publiſhed in *Engliſh*, which contains no more than a ſhort account of *Patrick's*

trick's father and his three ſons, *George*, *Patrick* and *Andrew*, and ſome complaints that *Patrick* made of his father's Partiality, to his elder and younger brothers, *George* and *Andrew*, but ſeveral fragments of it have been lately diſcovered, one of which I here give the tranſlation of, from the original *Iriſh*, for the ſatisfaction of the curious. It is divided into chapters, and only relates to the domeſtick affairs of *Patrick*, and the œconomy of his houſhold, which was the only hiſtory *Patrick*, as he ſtood circumſtanced, could furniſh materials for.

PATRICK's family ſettlement, had ſo many diſadvantageous peculiarities in it, that it was very diſtinguiſhable from all other family ſettlements then exiſting.

He had a very conſiderable eſtate in lands, but poorly inhabited, and moſtly by his own children, who were very numerous and generally in very low circumſtances; he was fond of ſhew and kept two handſome houſes, one on the top of a hill called *Mountfermal*, in which there was much ſtate and little buſineſs, and the ſervants, who were all choſen by *Patrick*'s father and elder brother, were of the ſame uſe in *Patrick*'s affairs, as the battle-axe guards are in the army. The other houſe, in which moſt of *Patrick*'s buſineſs was tranſacted, was ſituated below at the foot of the Hill, and as all the ſervants of it were choſen by *Patrick*'s children, it was more peculiarly *Patrick*'s houſe than any other, and what paſſed there, makes the principal branch of *Patrick*'s hiſtory. In this houſe the ſervants of Principal note, were Mrs. *Dorothy Major*, the houſe-keeper, and Mrs. *Jenny Minor*, and the coachman. The coachman was always choſen by Mrs. *Major*, the houſe-keeper, ſhe governed all affairs in the houſe, and confided much in the coachman, who was her creature, and he by the influence he generally had on her, was a ſervant of conſiderable conſequence in the houſe; as for Mrs. *Jenny Minor*, though her power was but ſmall, ſhe was ſometimes very formidable to both the others, for ſhe was long known to be a ſpy upon their actions, and if ſhe ever catched them tripping, ſhe never failed to make a rout in the houſe and ſpread it all abroad, among the children of *Patrick*

trick. When there was any diſpute about the choice of a ſervant, the matter was left to the deciſion of the houſe-keeper, who ſometimes determined according to the merits of the caſe, and upon ſuch occaſions all the ſervants in the houſe were aſſembled to know her pleaſure. A clauſe was found in the family ſettlement, all in *George*'s hand writing, and that was, whenever *Patrick* neglected to make proper regulations in his family, his brother *George* ſhould make them for him; this *Patrick* ſtiſly deny'd to be any part of the ſettlement, and it was referred to counſel learned in the law, who were choſen and feed by *George*, ſo of courſe they gave their opinions flatly againſt *Patrick*, who thereupon ſubmitted.

After this *George* took the chief government of all *Patrick*'s domeſtick concerns, and as he lived at too great a diſtance to be perſonally preſent with him, he ſent to him every now and then, an Overſeer to inſpect and report, and if *Patrick* had any thing good to give away, the Overſeer was to give it to ſuch of *George*'s children as he thought proper, and any thing elſe that was to be diſpoſed of, *Patrick* was at liberty to give to his own children, and for this indulgence and ſervice, the Overſeer was to be paid by *Patrick* the higheſt wages going, and to enable the Overſeer to perform his ſervice the better, he kept the key of *Patrick*'s cellar and Larder.

Notwithſtanding all the diſadvantages *Patrick* laboured under, he kept up a good appearance at his city houſe, where his winter reſidence generally was, and ſuch of his children as could make a decent appearance at his city houſe, where his winter reſidence generally was, and ſuch of his children as could make a decent appearance, lived round about him there, but thoſe of them, who were ragged and half naked, he kept in the country, becauſe they were not fit to be ſhewn to company. *Patrick*, beſides carriages for ordinary uſe, kept a ſtate coach to make a figure upon extraordinary occaſions, for he was fonder of ſhew than his elder brother, not having ſo much buſineſs to do.

RALPH who drove the *North* ſtage for ſome Years, with the entire approbation of the proprietors, was by them recommended to Mrs. *Dorothy*, who

who took him into the place, and during the ſhort time that he lived in it, acquitted himſelf very well, and died with the character of an honeſt, careful fellow, and a good Coachman.

To him *Harry*, who had been his helper, ſucceeded; when he got into the box, he was reputed a bolder driver, but not ſo able a coachman; he was obliged, like all his predeceſſors, to pay court to the hauſe-keeper, which he did at firſt with due modeſty and decorum.

In *Ralph*'s time, Mrs. *Dirothy* had ſome character, for he made no attempts upon her virtue, yet they were upon as good terms as honeſt folks ought to be; it was then *Ralph* and ſhe adviſed their maſter to ſet apart the rents of a ſmall farm which he could well ſpare, to be laid out in cutting drains thro' different parts of his eſtate, by which a water-carriage would be ſupplied to his children and tenants, and they might thereby find a market among themſelves for the products of their farms; their bogs would become profitable, and all the wants of bread and firing, for which they were every year at the mercy of their neighbours, might be eaſily ſupplied at home, beſides, they repreſented to him, what a pitiful figure he made at his chief *Manſion*, in ſending every ſecond day for a box of coals to his brother *George*, and *Andrew*'s tenants, to dreſs his dinner with, when they knew he had enough at home, but that they muſt ſuppoſe he was too lazy, or too beggarly to be at the trouble or expence of digging them. Upon theſe conſiderations *Patrick* agreed to the propoſal, and got his father and brother *George* to approve of it, ſo nothing was now wanting, but a careful and honeſt execution of this neceſſary ſcheme, which by *Ralph*'s death fell to *Harry* and Mrs. *Dorothy*. They appointed themſelves and friends to overſee the work, and to apply the money.

Patrick's children had always ſo high an eſteem for their father's houſe-keeper, that what ſhe ſaid paſſed with them for a law, inſomuch that once upon a quarrel between her and the parſon, whom ſhe always hated, ſhe only gave the word about, (*no graſs for the parſon's horſe*) and not one blade of graſs was to be had for him upon her maſter's whole eſtate, and

this

this great deference for her, arose from an opinion they had of her being a sensible, discreet, orderly woman, by which she had the ear of her master; and was his principal adviser in all his domestick concerns, and indeed *Patrick* had no other concerns worth talking of, so that if she neglected them, she neglected his all.

Harry and Mrs. *Dorothy* knew this, and therefore to preserve their credit with the family, they begun the work briskly, open'd the ground here and there, and went on employing a number of hands. In the mean while the longer *Harry* continued in his place, the better he grew acquainted with Mrs. *Dorothy*, and the more he discovered her weak side. He perceiv'd he could prevail upon her to go greater lengths with him than she did with any of his predecessors. Upon which he resolves to take occasion by the forelock, and to take all advantages of Mrs. *Dorothy*'s frailty: He invited her to treats and junkets, which she readily accepted of, but as his wages was not sufficient to keep up this sport long, ways and means must be found out to supply them in it. Many were from time to time devised and put in execution, among others they found out that the profits of the farm which in *Ralph*'s time was set apart, (as mentioned before) was not equal to the expence of carrying on the work in all its branches, and this they agreed was sufficient reason for not doing any part of it, and dropping it entirely, and the product of the farm wou'd answer other purposes more agreeable to them, tho' less useful to the family, and if any servant in the House should be impertinent enough to ask a question about it, they knew how to stop his mouth when they pleased. So by degrees it became quite neglected and not a word was heard of it from thenceforward in *Patrick*'s house.

Upon laying aside this worst which had no other advantage or use in it than to provide the necessaries of life for the numerous family of their master, if any of the children met Mrs. *Dorothy* when she went to take a little country air, and complained to her of cold and hunger, she bid them be under no apprehensions, for she had drove all poachers off the land, and there would be plenty of wild fowl next year

at

at their father's house, where if they could contrive to get in, and behave well, *Hall* and she would carve for them, and help them to a leg or a wing, if any thing was left after the servants were fed. And indeed she was so far, as good as her word, that she was particularly careful of her masters *Grouncer Partridge*, and *Pheasant*, but never once considered how she was to provide fire to roast them, or bread to eat with them; but for these articles depended mostly upon the Neighbours, for such now was the settled rule of oeconomy in *Patrick*'s house, and the children were left to shift for them as well as they could, by picking sticks for firing, and eating potatoes instead of bread.

In the mean while *Harry* and Mrs. *Dorothy* regaled themselves every day with all the tit bits of the house, and their intimacy increased to a degree far beyond the bounds of friendship. They gratified themselves with so little regard to the observation of the family, that any one with half an eye might see what they were about. At last they grew so careless of what any one thought, that they suffered themselves to be surprized in the very fact. And once upon a publick occasion, when all the family of the house were met together, to know Mrs. *Dorothy*'s pleasure about a new servant that was recommended; she signified her pleasure in a manner that amazed all the standers by. For she went aside, where † *Harry* in the view of the whole assembly engaged in criminal conversation with Mrs. *Dorothy*, and then made her turn off the recommended servant, and take in a professed friend of his old rival *Presto* the *Juggler*; from the last circumstance their friends excused them, by saying, they must have been both drunk, or they would never have acted a part at once both impolitic and indecent.

Harry had now visibly no regard to Mrs. *Dorothy*'s character, but carried on his intercourses with her, more for the good cheer he got by her, than from any affection he had to her person; for this reason he was never jealous of any who wanted only a single favour from her, provided he made his court

† The S—— divided in the C——e upon the D——n E——n.

thro' him, by whose intercession the wooer was never disappointed, but if he was so indiscreet as to sollicit her chastity privately, without employing *Harry*'s good offices, he not only was repulsed then, but could never hope for her favour after. For *Harry* by providing others for her, as well as by his own personal services, became in a double capacity the minister of her pleasures, and was besides occasionally the *Champion* of her virtue.

Accordingly the Overseer when he wanted a favour from Mrs. *Dorothy*, employed *Harry* as his sollicitor, and these three always kept up a good correspondence with each other, in which they all found their account; for tho' the Overseer kept the key of the cellar, and larder, yet it was by Mrs. *Dorothy*'s orders they were both fill'd, so that as she laid in the good cheer, so he gave it out, in which he did not forget himself, and the honest housekeeper, and coachman.

For many years this good intelligence subsisted among them, and while it did, things went on swimmingly with *Harry* and Mrs. *Dolly*, entertaining themselves and their company, with some of the best the house could afford; when an unlucky accident happened, which threatened some small interruption to their enjoyments.

Mrs. *Dolly* hired some bungling *Mason* to repair the parish *Watch-house*, who after botching the work, and overcharging forty shillings, was paid his bill, and yet gave the perquisite usual on such occasions, to some of the servants of the Overseer, instead of dividing it with the servants of *Patrick*, to make them drink.

The reader must know, that in all well regulated families, an honest servant never suffers a tradesman to cheat his master, unless he shares in the gain; which he looks upon as part of his vails.

The mason's affair set the servants of *Patrick* in an uproar, Mrs. *Dorothy* spent whole days in scolding, and calling him all to naught, and threatened, if he did not refund, she would have him kick'd out out of the house, if ever he dar'd to set his foot in it. Mrs. *Dorothy*'s fury upon this affair, was magnified to the children and tenants, as an instance of her zeal and activity, in every thing that concerned their interest; and it produced in them, this strange effect; it occasioned reflections upon her constant and steady indifference, for more than twenty years

paſt, to an affair of the laſt conſequence to them, and abſolutely in her power: That they were in annual danger of ſtarving, for want of a ſupply from their neighbours of what they might find at home, if ſhe had uſed half the diligence in draining their lands, that ſhe does now, to detect a rotten brick, or a broken tyle in the watch-houſe; that there is but this one excuſe to be made for her extravagant conduct, that ſhe is convinced in her conſcience, that a drop of rain falling upon a watchman's coat, is of much higher concern, than a general famine among her maſter's children; that it was plain they ſquabbled only for their own perquiſites; ſo let them fight it out, ſaid they among themſelves, when rogues fall out honeſt people may come by their own.

Another circumſtance at this time, gave this loving couple, *Harry* and *Doll* much more uneaſineſs than the former. They found that the Overſeer, contrary to the cuſtom of his predeceſſors, ſhut the larder and cellar againſt them; that Mrs. *Jenny Minkr* now got her ſhare of what was ſtirring, and was growing plump and ſizable, while Mrs. *Dorothy* was much ſtinted in her uſual amuſements; this *Harry* ſuſpected was done to draw her off from him, and then fill up his place with a new coachman.

At this he ſwore bloodily that it was breaking down all the rules of the family, that it was well known for time out of mind, to be a maxim in the houſe that Mrs. *Dorothy Mayor*'s name ſignified all *Patrick*'s children, and her perſon was always to be treated with the ſame reſpect and tenderneſs: that moſt of the children, who lived in the country were weak and lean, from the poverty of their food, and that they would all fall into a conſumption, if Mrs. *Dorothy* was not fed with the moſt bits in the larder; that they were ſubject to lowneſs of ſpirits for want of ſome generous liquors to drink, and would all die of the vapours, if the cellar was not opened, as uſual, to regale Mrs. *Dorothy* and her company; that it was well known how diligently both he and ſhe had obſerved in their own perſons, the aforeſaid regimen for many years, meerly for the ſake of the poor children of their maſter, leſt they ſhould be oppreſſed with thirſt, hunger or ſorrow, and though moſt of them were never the fatter or merrier for all the care they had taken of them; yet he could name four or five of them, who from being as poor as ever fell in a ditch, were now become as

fat as porpoiſes. Mrs. *Jenny Miner* liſtened to all this with a profound ſilence, for ſhe knew how things went, and how vain it was to argue againſt Mrs. *Dolly* and *Hurry* in that houſe; that by oppoſing them, heretofore, ſhe got nothing but ill uſage; that ſhe had been kept at ſhort allowance, as if there had been a famine in the houſe; that ſhe had been reduced to a ſkeleton, and indeed it was a ſhame to ſee ſuch a ſpectacle in a houſe, where ſo much was laviſh'd away without any benefit to the family; and if ſhe had not ſome pocket money of her own and friends without, ſhe muſt have ſtarved; but of late ſhe was growing into caſe, by the kindneſs of the Overſeer and *John*, the marketman.

Mrs. *Jenny* kept up a good character with every one, except the houſekeeper and coachman; ſhe and Mrs. *Dorothy* had been always at variance, and were the reverſe of one another in all reſpects. Mrs. *Dorothy* with ſtrong liquors, high feeding and bad hours, was grown fat and bloated, and ſo weak ey'd, that ſhe could not ſee the moſt plain and obvious thing that related to her maſter's children, though juſt under her noſe, but if ſhe heard the voice of any of her pot companions, ſhe prick'd up her ears, put a glaſs to her eye, and could then ſee to a miracle all that concerned their intereſt: She grew heedleſs of what the world ſaid of her, and provided ſhe enjoyed an intreigue and a bottle, cared not a farthing how things went with the family.

Mrs. *Jenny*, though ſhe had long been extremely thin and meagre, had naturally a good ſound conſtitution, which ſhe did not impare by any exceſſes; ſhe was rather abſtemious than otherwiſe, ſhe had a regard to her character, and was well ſpoken of among the children of *Patrick*, whoſe intereſt ſhe was now ſuppoſed to have more at heart than the houſekeeper. While Mrs. *Dorothy* preſerved her reputation, Mrs. *Jenny* was held in contempt, but her good name improved dayly as the other's declined, and ſhe became reſpected as a veſtal, when the other was deſpiſed as a proſtitute.

John, the marketman, had a ſneaking kindneſs for Mrs. *Jenny*, and upon every occaſion, in his power, was her very good friend. *John* was an honeſt young fellow, and for ſome years drove the market cart, had the care of fetching home all the wines, groceries and ſpirits for the family uſe, and if there was a crock of butter or a hide to be ſold, they were

ſent

ſent to market under *John*'s care, and whenever he had a glaſs of any thing good, he complimented Mrs. *Jenny* with it. *Harry*, at firſt, took no notice of *John*'s regards for Mrs. *Jenny*, whom he had long diſpiſed, but obſerving them grow very intimate with the chaplain, and always whiſpering about the houſe; that they often paid their reſpects to the Overſeer, with whom he was not on as good terms as formerly; he began to have huge ſuſpicions of a plot, and hearing at the ſame time, that the Overſeer had made ſome advances to Mrs. *Dorothy*, unknown to him, he thought he plainly diſcovered, that *John* had a mind to be coachman; that he now ſaw the reaſon why the larder and cellar were not open to him as uſual; that they intended to inveigle Mrs *Dorothy* from him, by diſabling him to amuſe her any longer, with entertainments and parties of pleaſure.

He had no reliance upon her conſtancy; he knew that her virtue and reputation had been long upon a level; that in her temper ſhe was grown luxurious and mercenary, and therefore had ſome reaſonable doubts of her fidelity to him, if the preſent reſtraint upon her pleaſures was not ſpeedily removed.

However he carefully concealed from her the diſreſpectful ſentiments he had of her, and ſhe on her part being ſecretly pleaſed to think the Overſeer had deſigns upon her, as carefully concealed her ſentiments from him, ſo that in all outward appearance they kept up a good correſpondence with each other.

Harry now redoubled his aſſiduities, and went in the morning to pay his reſpect to her at her own chamber, when he might expect to find her ſober; he there endeavoured to alarm her, by telling her, that the Overſeer had a ſcheme of pulling down their maſter's houſe, under pretence of building a better for him, in a more wholeſome ſituation, upon his brother *George*'s eſtate; that he only wanted her conſent, and when that was got, and the houſe once pulled down, ſhe may go whiſtle for a ſervice, for the Overſeer would never build another houſe for her maſter.

That *John* the marketman was the ſon of old *Preſto* the *Juggler*, who was the greateſt practitioner in the *Hocus Pocus* way in the whole country; that it was well known if ever he fingered ſixpence of any man's money, he never ceaſed till by ſlight of hand he drew the ballance that remain'd in his Neighbour's pocket fairly into his own, by which he he made a comfortable livelihood, and lived ſnug and warm upon the

profits

profits of his buſineſs which he taught to all his ſon; that if ſhe ſuffered *John* to have any communication with her, ſhe would never be worth a groat, and if ſhe chooſe him for a coachman his father would not only leave him penny leſs, but would even cheat the horſes of their corn, for he would blow the chaf into her eyes while he was putting the oats into his pocket.

That he heard the *Chaplain* had the aſſurance to give her ſome advice in private for changin her conduct, but he hoped ſhe would not be influenced by any advice that came from ſuch a clergyman, who idled away all his time in playing *Scotch-hop* and *Shuttle-cock*, with ſchool boys, wen he ought to be employed in reading ſome godly *Family* at home. Here *Harry* finiſhed his viſit, and took his leave. Mrs. *Dorothy* ſeriouſly attended to every part of this diſcourſe, except what related to the chaplain, which as ſhe was now ſober, ſhe treated as a jeſt. As ſoon as *Harry*'s back was turned, ſhe highed away to her long deſpiſed fellow ſervant Mrs. *Jenny*, who in this caſe was as much intereſted as ſhe, and after ſome apologies for the abruptneſs of her viſit, told her all the had heard about the Overſeer and *John*, and deſired to know her thoughts upon the matter. Mrs *Jenny* anſwered that ſhe wondered how one of Mrs. *Dorothy*'s experience could be under any apprehenſions about any ſcheme, which could not be executed without her own conſent. that as for *John*, ſhe would be bound for his honeſty, and tho' ſhe did not believe what ſhe heard, yet ſuppoſing all to be true that Mrs. *Dorothy* had told her, ſhe thought it redounded to *John*'s credit, that his natural honeſty got the better of his education ſo far, that he never followed the buſineſs of a *Juggler*, but earned an honeſt livelyhood by drrving their maſter's market cart, as all knew; as for making him coachman, I believe Mrs. *Dorothy*, it is equal to you who is coachman, provided your maſter's buſineſs is done. Here Mrs. *Jenny* pretended to be ignorant of the private connexion, which had long ſubſiſted, between Mrs *Dorothy* and *Harry*, whoſe pot companions were at this buſy in taumpeting their Praiſes abroad, and wheteever they met any of their maſter's children or tenants they told them;

What a brave fellow *Harry* was, how much he ventured for their ſake, in ſtanding up at once againſt three Adverſaries, the Overſeer, *John* and the Chaplain; that Mrs. *Dorothy* had been always as good as a mother to them all; that they ought now to ſend

them

them a helping hand, if required, in gratitude for their long and faithful services, and their well known affection to all their Master's Children, which upon every occasion they most plainly demonstrated. Have they not for your sake, said they, banished poachers, deprived † a parson, blistered an apothecary, and are now about to immure a mason in his own rotten bricks and mortar; in short the labours of *Hercules* are light, in compassion to what they have effected for your service.

Good lack, cried one of the ragged sons of *Patrick*, is this all they can shew for five and Twenty Years: is it for this we must enter into the right honourable dispute, whether an old whore should have a new gallant? whether Mrs. *Dorothy* shall have young *John* or old *Harry*. We have long experienced one to another purpose, therefore, I am for a new man, and if he be chaster than *Harry*, Mrs. *Dorothy* may reform, and then we may possibly get fire to warm us, bread to feed us, and cloaths to cover us. The Family has some chance in a change, but none at all, while matters go on as they have done: *John* has an honest character, good friends, and as being the younger man may expect to to continue longer among us, so have a greater respect for what may be thought or said of him: But if *John* won't do, there are others in the house as honest as he, and abler than *Harry*. Its well known poor as we are, how much worse we should have been, had we depended upon *Harry* and Mrs. *Doll* to take care of us, if it were not for our honest friend, *Farmer* † *Goodman*, we should have even our gardens waste; he, as far as he was able, helped us as his own expence to make up our fences, plant our ditches, dig our gardens, and brew and to bake, while Mrs. *Dorothy* received the wages that poor *Goodman* deserved; and was all the time taken up with schemes how to increase her own veils, at our expence. As for her friend *Harry*, he seemed to think, that after himself had been served, our father's rents were better employ'd in cramming his cousin, *Robin Roundgut*, with plumb-pudding and custard, than saving us from starving.

While things went on thus, *Harry* and *Dolly* put their heads together, and finding, that the Overseer persisted on keeping them out of the larder and cellar, they agreed to write a letter to *Patrick's* father, but

acquaintance,

† The V——e of H—e of C——s against A—r.
† The D——— n Society.

not before they conſulted an attorney's clark of their acquaintance, about their title to the perquiſites, which they had in right of their places in the houſe, and having ſtated their caſe, he was clearly of opinion, that as they had been for more than twenty years in quiet and peaceable poſſeſſion of their places, of which the children of their maſter had given them livery and ſeizen, and no legal claim being made during that time, on behalf of the children of *Patrick*, of any ſervice due to them; they were within the ſtatute of limitations, and held their places in the houſe now as their own private property, free and diſcharged of all duties and ſervices to the children of their maſter, who ſent them there, and that the perquiſites which they had in right of their places, could not now, under colour of their not doing ſervice to the family, be withheld, without an infringement upon the law and the liberty of the ſubject.

This ſatisfactory opinion, being had, they reſolved to change the form of the letter, they intended for *Patrick*'s father, and to give it the air and caſt of a letter miſſive, to make it look like the commencement of a ſuit for their legal property.

Accordingly the letter was drawn up, but not in their names, in order to try the lord; and it run ſo.

† *Pleaſe your honour*,

Harry has been full twenty years in the box, and during that time has been employed as coachman in every job, either for city or Country, by your honour's Overſeer, in which they always left to him the care and direction of Mrs. *Dorothy*, who always placed the greateſt confidence in him; he had always heretofore free acceſs to the larder and cellar in conſideration of his aforeſaid ſervices; but he is now treated as no longer worthy that honour, the better to carry on the endeavours uſed to turn his and his friends perquiſites into another channel, that is into the hands of the chaplain, who from his profeſſion to your honour's ſervice, ſhould rather keep up the virtuous harmony and unanimity which has ſubſiſted between *Harry* and the houſekeeper, and not ſtir up a flame between them, who were till lately both of one mind.

And may it pleaſe your honour, what do you think, but they carried their ſpite ſo far, as to ſtop the little wages of fourſcore pounds a year, which was allowed to *Harry*'s couſin *Robin Roundgut*, for introducing

† The E—— of ——'s M——l.

introducing into his master's family, the true art of roasting a leg of pork, and god knows the wages is very trifling, when compaired with our master's estate, who has above five hundred pounds a year, and with the eminence of the service; which all who love to eat, that is, all the world, must allow to be very considerable; and this they did to one who was always, in all things, attached to your honour, and would at any time go up to his neck in dirt to serve any of your honour's Overseers, as the last Overseer can testify, provided the wages of such service were continued in the old hands, who have been long earning it; but as no good reason can be assigned for so rash an action, as the stopping of wage, so well applied, it is thought it was done to shew that they could get others to do their work as cheap as they, and that they must lower their price. It is with great concern I assure your honour, that the breach is growing wider and wider, for not only promisses to some and threats to others are daily used, but indirect attempts are made to disturb the quiet possession which the coachman and the housekeeper, and their relations, have enjoyed for 20 years in their places and vails, in which they have as they are advised, a legal property now by the statutes of limitation, free and discharged from all services to any but themselves.

I hope your honour will pardon me for attempting to inform you of these things, but I do it from the dread I have of the fatal consequence of an angry coachman in the box, when the wheels of the state coach are ready to fire, because he will not grease them himself, nor let any one else do it for him, 'till all his vails are restored as formerly, and when that is done, please your honour, he is ready, as he always was, to drive thro' thick and thin for any of your honour's Overseers, as he plainly shewed in the late Overseer's time. I am, &c.

When this letter was finished, their next care was to find a proper person to sign it, and they thought of one of the servants of the upper house, upon *Mountfarmal*, who was a mean well-meaning man, and as there was no business in his house, the imagin, he would be glad to be employed, this was *James* the waggoner, who very readily offered his service when applied to, and subscribed the letter; then *James* considered that if it was sent by post it might miscarry, therefore a safe hand must be found for the carriage of it, and after much deliberation and casting about, he could think of no hand so safe as his own: therefore resolved to be the bearer of his own letter.

End of the first Chapter